

## METHUEN'S ILL LUCK

Suffered Appalling Losses in Monday's Fierce Battle.

### FIGHTING AT MODDER RIVER

Highlanders Made Heroic Stand in the Face of the Boer Fire. Prominent British Officers Killed in Action.

(By Telegraph.)

NORTH OF MODDER RIVER, Monday, Dec. 11.—Early yesterday evening the guards of the Highland brigade moved from the Modder river camp, marching in the night, in a northerly direction. The objective of the Highlanders was the eastern spur of the Boer position, the guards following the bank of the river while the Yorkshire light infantry moved along the riverbed. Just before daybreak, the Highlanders arrived within 200 yards of the Boer entrenchments, at the foot of the hill.

Unsuspecting that the Boers were in the vicinity, the British were still marching in column, in close order when they met a terrific fire from the flanks and were forced to retire with heavy loss.

DEADLY NAVAL GUN. The troops reformed under the shelter of some rising ground and gallantly held their position. Later, the guns arrived and the troops gradually worked their way until within 200 yards of the Boer position, displaying the greatest gallantry. In the meantime a naval gun at the Modder river, the howitzer batteries and the horse artillery opened a terrific fire, enfilading the trenches and searching every portion of the Boer position. The Boer guns were entirely silent. In the meantime, the Boers on the open ground directly in front moved with the object of making a flank attack, but this was frustrated by the guards and artillery.

The Boers recommenced shelling in the evening but no damage was done. The British slept on their position. It is expected that there will be a renewal of the fighting tomorrow. The losses on both sides were very heavy.

### GEN. METHUEN'S VERSION.

LONDON, Dec. 13.—The war office has received the following despatch from General Methuen dated Tuesday, December 12: "Our artillery shelled a very strong position held by the enemy in a long, high kopje from 4 until dusk Sunday. It rained hard last night. The Highland brigade attacked at daybreak on Monday the south end of the kopje. The attack was properly timed but failed. The Guards were ordered to protect the Highlanders right and rear. The cavalry and mounted infantry, with a howitzer artillery battery, attacked the enemy on the left and the Guards on the right, supported by field artillery and howitzer artillery. They shelled the position from daybreak, and at 1:15 I sent the Guards to support the Highland brigade. The troops held their own in front of the enemy's entrenchments until dusk, the position extending, including the kopje, for a distance of six miles toward the Modder river. Today I am holding my position and entrenching myself. I had to face at least 12,000 men. Our loss was great."

### HEAVY FIGHTING.

PRETORIA, Dec. 11, Monday.—An official report says: "A battle at the Modder river began yesterday with cannon firing, heavy fighting proceeding from 3:30 o'clock in the morning until 9:30 o'clock, with cannon, machine guns and rifles. A bombardment began at 4:30 o'clock and the fighting still continues. A balloon has just arisen above the British positions where it remained ten minutes and during the night. There were heavy rains during the night. At 9 o'clock this morning a further report was received from Modder river. A despatch rider brought word that all the Boer positions had been maintained and that 41 British prisoners had been taken. At 9:30 o'clock it was reported that the heavy cannon fire had somewhat abated. The British are constantly using their balloons. The fighting was still going on at noon."

### WOUNDED ARRIVE.

LONDON, Dec. 13.—The war office today received the following message from General Forester-Walker: "Cape Town, Tuesday, Dec. 12.—No further details from Methuen. From Orange river it is reported that 320 wounded including 27 officers have arrived there from the Modder river."

"Gautreaux is moving from Bushman's Nek to Sterkstroom today. The magistrate at Sterkstroom wires that situation there has slightly improved. Many of the missing have turned up. French reports that a detachment of cavalry, with two guns of the horse artillery, reconnoitered the enemy's position yesterday at Quilfontein and Vaalburg, eight miles north of Arandell. They shelled a farm and drove the enemy from Vaalburg. The Boer loss was one killed and several wounded. Our casualties nil."

### QUIET AT KIMBERLEY.

PRETORIA, Monday, Dec. 11.—Kimberley is still quiet.

### BRITISH NEAR COLENSO.

LONDON, Dec. 13.—A despatch from Pretoria, dated Tuesday, December 12, morning, says: "This morning a union brigade consisting of English, Scottish, Irish and Welsh Fusiliers, under General Barton, with several naval guns, advanced and took up a strong position three miles from Colenso, meeting with no opposition."

### GEN. WAUCHOPE KILLED.

LONDON, Dec. 13.—The war office has received the following despatch from Gen. Forester-Walker: "Cape Town, Tuesday, Dec. 12.—Me-

## AS ROBERTS SEES IT

Committee Has No Jurisdiction Until He is Seated.

### MORMON'S TRIAL PROCEEDS

Gentiles of Utah Submit Their Testimony Against Him. The Congressman-Elect Cross Examines the Witnesses. He Shows His Temper.

(By Telegraph.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—The committee of the House investigating the case of Mr. Roberts, of Utah, opened its doors at 10:30 today to begin the examination of witnesses. A large number of spectators were on hand, including several ladies. Mr. Roberts occupied a seat at the foot of the committee table, while flanking him was the delegation of gentiles—Rev. Dr. H. H. Moffat, Mr. Schroeder and others—here to direct the case against the Utah member-elect.

### MR. ROBERTS' INQUIRIES.

When Chairman Taylor, of Ohio, called the committee to order and asked what witnesses would be heard Mr. Roberts arose and said: "I respectfully ask to be informed as to my status before this committee. Am I regarded as a member of the House of Representatives?" "If you answer this question in the affirmative then I ask that the committee define itself to the consideration of the election, the returns of my election and the qualifications for membership in Congress as defined by the constitution. If this committee shall and that my election is beyond question, then I ask that I be permitted to take the oath of office as this is the only constitutional power which the committee can exercise over me until I am sworn in."

"If the committee shall answer 'no' to this inquiry, then it has no jurisdiction whatever over me, as the constitution gives to the House power over its members only, and I ask that the proceedings before the committee be discontinued."

### MR. TAYLOR'S REPLY.

Mr. Taylor responded that all of Mr. Roberts' rights had been fully looked after and protected, and that the very threshold of the inquiry there was no proper question which had not been raised.

Charles Austin Owen, of Salt Lake City, was then called. The witness said that the general reputation of the status of Roberts was that of a man of high character and of high moral standing. He said that he was a member of the same church as Mr. Roberts, and that he was a member of the same church as Mr. Roberts, and that he was a member of the same church as Mr. Roberts.

Mr. Roberts then cross examined the witness. The questions were asked rapidly, some times savagely. Mr. Roberts' questions brought out that the witness had no personal knowledge as to the character of Mr. Roberts or Mr. Roberts' character, but that it was general information and common knowledge.

Mr. McEwen, of the Philadelphia North American, was examined as to a recent interview with Mr. Roberts, signed by him (McEwen). In this Mr. Roberts spoke of his "wives" referring to them as "good and true women" toward whom obligations had been incurred prior to the enactment of the polygamy law.

### CAPTAIN PARSONS.

Capt. Elias Parsons, of the quarter-masters department, United States volunteers, testified to an incident occurring in 1896 while he was in Salt Lake City. About this time, he was asked to call up on his telephone Dr. Maggie Shipp Roberts on going to the telephone and calling up the house, a man's voice answered.

"Who is this?" Captain Parsons asked over the telephone.

"B. H. Roberts," was the reply. Capt. Parsons testified.

On cross examination Roberts asked: "Do you know B. H. Roberts' voice?" "I do not,"

Rev. Dr. H. H. Moffat, a Methodist missionary of Utah, testified that the general reputation as to the status of Celia Dibble Roberts was that she was the plural wife of Brigham H. Roberts. On cross examination, Mr. Roberts sought to show that Dr. H. H. Moffat was hostile to the Mormons, and was hostile to the polygamous feature of Mormonism.

### OF COMMON REPUTE.

Rev. G. W. Martin, a Presbyterian minister of Mantle, Utah, testified as to the reputation of the polygamous status of Celia Dibble Roberts and Margaret C. Shipp Roberts toward B. H. Roberts. He said statements to this effect in the Salt Lake City newspapers and heard of no denials. The polygamous status of Mr. Roberts was a matter of common repute. It was also reported that twins had been born to Celia Dibble Roberts.

In the course of the hearing, Mr. Taylor stated to Mr. Roberts that the latter's denunciations had been overruled, all questions being taken into consideration for determination later.

### War on the Knights of Labor.

(By Telegraph.)

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Dec. 13.—The United Mine Workers of Alabama have declared an open war on the Knights of Labor and a resolution recommending that the district organization do all in its power to overthrow and eradicate the Knights of Labor in Alabama will be adopted at tomorrow's session of the annual convention of mine workers now in session here.

### Nominated by the President.

(By Telegraph.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—The president today sent these nominations to the Senate: Treasury: Mm. D. Bruum, of Indiana, to be general appraiser of merchandise; Postmasters: Georgia—Lizzie Hamilton; Buford; George L. Walker, Tacoma.

Florida: R. S. Hanna, St. Petersburg; G. Glass, High Springs; Wm. J. Watson, Marianna.

## OTHEY, OF VIRGINIA

Speaks Against the Currency Bill in the House.

### DEBATE IS LONG DRAWN OUT

Congressmen Axious to Contribute Argument and Oratory, Chiefly for the Benefit of Their Respective Constituencies.

(By Telegraph.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—The currency debate in the House lasted from 11 o'clock this morning until 10:30 tonight with a recess of three hours for dinner. The pressure for time to speak continues as most of the members desire to make contributions to the literature of the occasion. Much of it, however, seems to be for home consumption. There has been very little cross firing thus far and no exciting or dramatic incidents. So far as known 12 Democrats, eight from New York, two from Pennsylvania and one each from Maryland and Massachusetts, will vote for the bill. The speakers before the recess today were Messrs. Fowler, of New Jersey; Lacey, of Iowa; Cushman, of Washington; Hamilton, of Michigan; and Barton, of Ohio. Republicans for the bill, and Messrs. Brundage, of Arkansas; Wheeler, of Kentucky; Benton, of Missouri; Pak, of Mississippi; Pierce, of Tennessee; Sulzer, of New York; Cowherd, of Missouri; Otey, of Virginia; Gaines, of Texas; Democrats, and Mr. Bell, of Colorado, Populist, against it.

### THE HOUSE TODAY.

The House adopted a resolution for a holiday recess from December 20 to Wednesday, January 3, Mr. Richardson, the minority leader, asked that the House adjourn over tomorrow to give the members an opportunity to participate in the Washington memorial exercises, but Mr. Payne, the majority leader, objected. He said if George Washington were alive he thought he would be in favor of the House proceeding with the transaction of its business.

Mr. Bell, of Colorado, was the first speaker on the currency bill. He devoted much time to an argument against its sinking features.

Mr. Wheeler, of Kentucky, said he desired to acquit the Republicans at least in his district, of the charge of a change of front. There, the battle was waged squarely by the bimetalists on the one side and the gold monometalists on the other and the bimetalists piled up a majority of 15,000.

Mr. Lacey, of Iowa, in supporting the bill said he was astounded to hear the gentleman from Missouri, (Mr. DeArmond) declare that the Republican triumph of 1896 was won by the purchase of Democratic votes.

### "BARRY" BARRY'S QUERY.

"Does the gentleman contend that McKinley could have won without the recalcitrant Gold Democrats?" asked Mr. Barry, of Kentucky.

"We won perhaps with the aid of those whom the gentleman denounces recalcitrant Democrats," replied Mr. Lacey. "But they were not bought or scared. No more honorable body of men ever stood up to be counted than the Gold Democrats of 1896."

Mr. Benton, of Missouri, said he stood with the Democrats and Populists in never ending opposition to extending the powers of national banks.

Mr. Fox, of Mississippi, argued that the enactment of the pending bill would increase the value of all obligations, public and private.

Mr. Pierce, of Tennessee, said that to a gold advocate of free silver at 16 to 1, he could not see that free coinage of silver was involved in the provisions of the pending measure. It simply proposed to continue the existing conditions. In the course of his remarks he denominated Grover Cleveland the arch enemy of silver and of the Democratic party. "He perverted the principles of his party," said Mr. Pierce, "and prostituted men high in his councils with promises of pelf and power."

### DEMOCRATS APPLAUDED.

The Democrats greeted this utterance with applause.

Mr. Sulzer, of New York, in opposing the bill, protested vigorously against the haste with which it was considered. He said he favored sound money, hard money, gold and silver and declared that it was dishonest to change the contracts made by the government with the bondholders by substituting "gold" for "coin."

He announced himself unequivocally for the Chicago platform, which, he said, was the best platform ever adopted by the Democratic party. (Democratic applause.)

"The bill, Mr. Sulzer said, would create a national bank trust."

Mr. Cowherd, of Missouri, argued that the bill would inevitably result in the sale of millions of bonds to secure gold.

After some further remarks against the bill by Mr. Otey, of Virginia, and Mr. Gaines, of Tennessee, Mr. Hilly, of Connecticut, completed the day's debate with an argument for the gold standard.

At 5 o'clock the House recessed until 8 o'clock.

### BRIEF SESSION OF SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—Today's session of the Senate consumed only a few minutes. Some routine business was transacted but beyond the introduction of bills, nothing of importance was accomplished.

Mr. Gallinger, of New Hampshire, presented a bill for the codification of the pension laws. It is proposed that the commission shall consist of jurists and members of the G. A. R.

At 12:40 the Senate went into executive session and at 1:20 P. M. adjourned.

### NIGHT SESSION.

At the night session, the feature was a charitable speech by Mr. Linney, (Rep.) of North Carolina, the only Republican who voted for the Teller resolution in the 54th Congress, in explanation of his change of position in favor of the gold standard. The gold

## POLICE BILL PASSES

Mr. Madison's Measure Favorable Acted Upon by the House.

### DOINGS OF THE LAWMAKERS

Bill to Incorporate South Atlantic Insurance Co. in Which Newport News People Are Interested, Introduced.

(Special to the Daily Press.)

RICHMOND, VA., Dec. 13.—Mr. Madison's bill "to amend and reenact an act approved Feb. 19, 1894, entitled an act to provide police for Newport Magisterial District, in the County of Warwick," passed the House today.

Another House measure which went through successfully was the bill to incorporate Hampton Lodge, No. 324, B. P. O. Elks.

### IN THE SENATE.

In the State Senate today Senator Lupton introduced a bill "to amend the tax law in relation to the taxation of public franchises as real property."

The bill is that of the Ford law, now in operation in New York, and which is said to yield a revenue of \$13,000,000 to that State. The bill was presented by Mr. Ford, a Democrat, in the New York Legislature, and was passed by them. The owners of franchises applied to State and Roosevelt refused to sign the bill. A special session of the New York Legislature was called and a few amendments put in, and the bill now offered by Senator Lupton, is that as is now in operation in New York.

The Senator holds that franchises should be taxed as real property, as they are subject to all other legal processes as real property, and are practically without taxation on a basis of their values.

### SOUTH ATLANTIC INS. CO.

A bill was introduced by Senator Munford to incorporate the South Atlantic Life Insurance Company, with a minimum capital stock of \$100,000 and a maximum of \$500,000.

The principal office of the company shall be in Richmond, and it will do a general life insurance business.

The other members are Messrs. Virginia Newton, Fritz Sitterling, Thos. Atkinson, J. D. Patton, S. W. Travlers, R. B. Munford, J. K. Branch, L. M. Williams, J. L. Antrim, P. Whitlock, W. Scott, E. A. Saunders, Jr., S. T. Morgan, W. Perry, A. P. Thom, W. H. Doyle, N. Beaman, G. A. Schmitz, A. E. Kyles, J. W. Craddock, C. L. Holland, G. E. Sipe, W. B. Christolm, Julian S. Carr, W. Z. Meade, Robert S. Basher, G. G. Valentine, Joseph Bryan, T. C. Williams, Jr., and E. B. Addison.

### HOUSE BILLS PASSED.

For the protection of game in Mecklenburg county.

To amend road law of Culpeper.

Senator Lyle offered the bill drafted by the committee from the Virginia Firemen's Association, providing a relief fund for disabled firemen and families of deceased firemen.

### THE SHANDS' CASE.

Senator Eggleston, having served as a member of the State Democratic Committee that investigated the Boykin-Shands case, has declined to serve as a member of the committee to pass upon Mr. Shands' application for admission to the Democratic caucus. Senator Jeffries has been named in his stead.

In the House of Delegates Mr. Little offered a resolution that when the House adjourned for the day, it be to meet again on Friday, December 15th, which resolution was agreed to.

A number of bills of local interest were offered.

By Mr. John Whitehead, a resolution from the Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association endorsing the position of the Fifth Judicial District.

By Mr. Bland, "To Incorporate the Portsmouth and Pinner's Point Drawbridge Company."

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No. 17.—To incorporate Hampton Lodge, No. 326, B. P. O. Elks, of Hampton, Va.

No. 18.—To amend and re-enact section 6 of an act entitled an act to incorporate the United Land and Investment Company, approved Feb. 10, 1898.

No. 19.—To renew, re-enact and extend the charter of the Longdale Company for the period of thirty years from the expiration thereof.

No. 21.—To empower the trustees of the Bell Home to receive land for the use of the said Bell Home, in the county of Westmoreland, Va.

No. 22.—To authorize the school boards of Dinwiddie county to compensate its school trustees.

No. 23.—To amend and re-enact an act approved February 19, 1894, entitled an act to provide police for Newport Magisterial District, in the county of Warwick.

No. 24.—To incorporate the town of Scottsburg, in the county of Halifax.

No. 25.—To regulate the hunting or capturing of partridges (or quail) in the county of Princess Anne.

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### Weather Forecast.

(By Telegraph.)